## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Photocatalytic hydrogen evolution from carbon-neutral oxalate with 2-phenyl-4-(1-naphthyl)quinolinium lon and metal nanoparticles

Yusuke Yamada,<sup>a</sup> Takamitsu Miyahigashi,<sup>a</sup> Kei Ohkubo<sup>a</sup> and Shunichi Fukuzumi\*<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Material and Life Science, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, ALCA, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan

<sup>b</sup> Department of Bioinspired Science, Ewha Womans University, Seoul 120-750, Korea

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: fukuzumi@chem.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp



Fig. S1 TEM images of (a) Ru nanoparticles and (b) Ni nanoparticles.



**Fig. S2** Time courses of evolution of (a) hydrogen and (b) CO<sub>2</sub> under photoirradiation  $(\lambda > 340 \text{ nm})$  of a deaerated mixed solution (2.0 mL) of a phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN [1:1 (v/v)] containing QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA (0.22 mM), Pt NPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) and oxalate ions (1.5 mM, closed circle; 3.0 mM, open circle; 5.0 mM, closed triangle; 6.0 mM, open triangle). (c) Time courses of hydrogen evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda > 340$  nm) of a deaerated mixed solution (2.0 mL) of an aqueous buffer (pH 7.0) and MeCN [1:1 (v/v)] containing QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA (0.22 mM), Pt NPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) and oxalate ions (1.5 mM, closed circle; 3.0 mM, open circle; 5.0 mM, closed triangle; 6.0 mM, open triangle).



**Fig. S3** UV-vis absorption spectra of (a)  $(QuPh^+-NA)(ClO_4)$ , (b) PtNPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) and (c) PtNPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>) +  $(QuPh^+-NA)(ClO_4)$  (0.22 mM, black solid line and 0.11 mM, red dashed line) in a mixed solution of phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN [1:1 (v/v)].



**Fig. S4** (a) Time courses of hydrogen evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda > 340$  nm) of a deaerated mixed solution (2.0 mL) of an aqueous buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN [1:1 (v/v)] containing PtNPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>), oxalate ions (3.0 mM) and QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA with different concentrations (0.055 mM, closed circles; 0.11 mM, open circles; 0.22 mM, closed triangles; 0.44 mM, open triangles). (b) Time courses and (c) hydrogen yield of hydrogen evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda > 340$  nm) of a deaerated mixed solution (2.0 mL) of an aqueous buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN [1:1 (v/v)] containing QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA (0.22 mM), oxalate ions (3.0 mM) and PtNPs in different concentrations (6.25 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, closed circle; 8.75 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, open circle; 12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, closed triangle; 18.8 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, open triangle; 25.0 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, closed square).



Fig. S5 Cyclic voltammograms of oxalate in a deaerated mixed solution of an aqueous buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN. The concentration of oxalic acid was 0 mM (black) or 2.5 mM (red) and the scan rate was  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. S6** (a) Decay time profile of absorption at 1,000 nm due to QuPh<sup>•</sup>–NA<sup>•+</sup> with various concentrations of oxalate (0.39 mM, red; 0.75 mM, blue; 1.5 mM, green; 3.0 mM, black; 6.0 mM, purple) in the presence of QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA (0.056 mM). QuPh<sup>•</sup>–NA<sup>•+</sup> was produced by the laser excitation ( $\lambda = 355$  nm) of a deaerated mixed solution of an aqueous buffer (pH 6.0) and MeCN [1:1(v/v)]. (b) Plot of the pseudo-first-order rate constant ( $k_{obs}$ ) of electron transfer from oxalate to QuPh<sup>•</sup>–NA<sup>•+</sup> vs. [oxalate].



**Fig. S7** Time courses of hydrogen evolution under photoirradiation ( $\lambda > 340$  nm) of a deaerated mixed solution of an aqueous buffer (pH 3.0) and MeCN containing formic acid (270 mM, 540 mM and 810 mM), QuPh<sup>+</sup>–NA (0.22 mM) and PtNPs (12.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>).